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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 9, 1871.

Read the first and second times.

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AN ACT

For the relief of Thomas B. Valentine.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That the ninth circuit court of the United States for Califor-  
4       nia be, and is hereby, authorized and required to hear, and  
5       decide, upon the merits, the claim of Thomas B. Valentine,  
6       claiming title under a Mexican grant to Juan Miranda, to a  
7       place called the "Rancho Arroyo de San Antonio," situate in  
8       the county of Sonoma, and State of California, in the same  
9       manner and with the same jurisdiction as if the claim to the  
10      said tract of land had been duly presented to the board of  
11      land commissioners under the provisions of the act entitled  
12      "An act to ascertain and settle the private land claims in the  
13      State of California," approved March third, eighteen hundred  
14      and fifty-one, and an appeal had been duly taken from their  
15      decision to the district court of California by the said Thomas  
16      B. Valentine.

1        SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That on the said  
2 hearing any testimony heretofore taken before the said board  
3 of commissioners in relation to said claim on behalf of the  
4 said claimant, or of the United States, may be read, subject to  
5 all just exceptions to its competency; and additional testimony  
6 on either part may be taken under the order and direction  
7 of said circuit court, as to the validity and extent of said  
8 claim.

1        SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That an appeal may  
2 be taken from the final decision and decree of the said circuit  
3 court to the Supreme Court of the United States, by either  
4 party, in accordance with the provisions of the tenth section  
5 of said act of March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-one,  
6 but no judgment shall be finally entered, in favor of the  
7 claimant, until hearing and affirmation by the Supreme Court  
8 of the United States; nor shall the Secretary of the Interior  
9 execute this law until a decree in favor of the claimant shall  
10 be affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States, and  
11 a decree under the provisions of this act in favor of said  
12 claim shall not be construed to establish, or in any way to  
13 affect, any right, title, claim, or possession to the lands  
14 described in said decree; but in lieu thereof the claimant, or  
15 his legal representatives, may select, and shall be allowed,  
16 patents for an equal quantity of the unoccupied and unappro-  
17 priated public lands of the United States, not mineral;

18 and in tracts not less than the subdivisions provided  
19 for in the United States land laws, and, if unsur-  
20 veyed when taken, to conform, when surveyed,  
21 to the general system of United States land surveys: *Pro-*  
22 *vided*, That the quantity of land hereby granted shall not ex-  
23 ceed thirteen thousand acres: *And provided further*, That  
24 the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under the  
25 direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall be authorized  
26 to issue scrip in legal subdivisions to the said Valentine or his  
27 legal representatives, in accordance with the provisions of  
28 this act, but no more than two sections shall be located in any  
29 one township in the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives February 8, 1871.

Attest:

EDWARD McPHERSON, *Clerk*.